## **ABSTRACT**

[0075] A system for scanning email messages to detect and eliminate viruses is disclosed. A recipient's email gateway receives email messages from a network. The email messages are transmitted by the recipient's email gateway to a group of email scanning servers connected to the network. The group of email-scanning servers comprises one or more email-scanning servers. Each of the email-scanning servers includes one or more anti-virus software to scan and clean viruses from the email messages to generate clean email messages. The clean email messages are transmitted by the group of email-scanning servers to the recipient's email gateway.